

Mount Vernon Police Ledger December 2009

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique dangers. A few simple prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips can help you be more careful and aware during the holiday season:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, make sure someone knows where you are going or go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your driver's license or identification card. Only carry the cash, checks and/or credit cards you expect to use.
- Always stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals at bus stops and on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con artists may try various methods of distracting you to steal your money or belongings.

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Dates to Remember

December 21 - Winter begins
December 25 - Christmas



DRIVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS



By MPO Robbie Clift

Driving during the holidays requires some extra safety precautions:

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.
- Activate your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you are parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates an opportunity for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching and leaving your vehicle be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.



***Lock Your Vehicles
&
Remove All Property***
*Help us reduce the opportunity
for our communities to be victimized.
Prevention Works!*

Impaired Driving Will Not Be Tolerated This Holiday Season



Impaired driving is one of America's most often-committed and deadliest crimes. Overall in 2008, 11,773 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes.

Local law enforcement will be out in force this holiday season cracking down on and arresting drunk drivers.

The message is simple – *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*

No matter what you drive – a passenger car, pickup, sport utility vehicle or motorcycle – if you are caught driving impaired, you will be arrested.

Far too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime.

Much of the tragedy that comes from impaired driving crashes could be prevented if everyone would take a few simple precautions:

- **Plan ahead:** Whenever you plan on consuming alcohol, designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys.
- **If you're impaired,** call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.
- **Use your community's Sober Rides program:** Holiday Sober Ride Campaign. You must be 21 to use this service. Program starts Friday, December 11, 2009 through Friday, January 1, 2010. Please call 1-800-200-TAXI (8294). <http://www.soberride.com/>
- **Promptly report drunk drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement.**

And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Virginia Drunk Driving Laws & Consequences

Legal Drinking Age: 21

Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) 21 and Over:

.08 BAC

Automatic Driver's License Revocation:

License's can be taken for refusing to take the test or for having a .08 BAC or higher

1st Offense DUI /DWI:

Fine: \$250 to \$2,500

Jail: Up to one year

Revoke License: One year

If BAC is .15 to .20:

Fine: Additional \$250

Jail: Mandatory minimum 5 days in jail.

If BAC is above .20: Mandatory minimum 15 days in jail & Mandatory Ignition Interlock if BAC \geq .15

2nd Offense DUI /DWI:

Fine: \$500 to \$2,500

Jail: 1 month to 1 year

Revoke License: Three years

If BAC is .15 to .20:

Jail: 1 month to 1 year/Mandatory minimum 20 days in jail.

If BAC is above .20: Mandatory minimum 40 days in jail & Mandatory Ignition Interlock

3rd Offense DUI /DWI:

Fine: \$1,000 to \$2,500

Jail: 6 Months to 5 years

Revoke License: Indefinitely Plus Mandatory Ignition Interlock

Vehicle: Can be seized & Forfeited

Adults/Parents Who Aid Minors in Obtaining Alcohol:

Fine: \$250 - \$2500

Revoke License: Up to a year

Driver's License Suspension: Up to one year for purchasing for anyone under the age of 21.

Laws of the Month

46.2-833.1 Evasion of traffic control device.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to drive off the roadway and onto or across any public or private property in order to evade any stop sign, yield sign, traffic light, or other traffic control device.

46.2-826. Stop before entering public highway or sidewalk from private road, etc. ; yielding right-of-way.

The driver of a vehicle entering a public highway or sidewalk from a private road, driveway, alley, or building shall stop immediately before entering such highway or sidewalk and yield the right-of-way to vehicle approaching on such public highway and to pedestrians or vehicles approaching on such public sidewalk. The provisions of this section shall not apply to an intersection of public and private roads controlled by a traffic signal. At any such intersection, all movement of traffic into and through the intersection shall be controlled by the traffic signal.

46.2-862. Exceeding speed limit.

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who drives a motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth (i) at a speed of twenty miles per hour or more in excess of the applicable maximum speed limit or (ii) in excess of eighty miles per hour regardless of the applicable maximum speed limit.

46.2-852. Reckless driving; general rule.

Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person shall be guilty of reckless driving.



What to Do When You are Stopped by Police

Article located at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police

Your Safety is Important to Us!

The Police Department suggests that the actions listed in this page be taken if you are stopped by a police officer. When you follow them, your encounter with the police will likely be brief, positive and much safer for both you and the officer.

Awareness as well as involvement and cooperation are essential elements of effective policing.

Why do police stop citizens/vehicles?

You:

- fit the description of a suspect.
- witnessed a crime.
- appear to need assistance.
- have been pointed out as a suspect.
- are in an area where a crime has just occurred.
- violated the law.

When approached by a police officer:

- Follow the officer's instructions.
 - Keep your hands clearly visible.
 - Make movements slowly.
 - Verbally inform the officer of any
- Weapon's present and whether you possess a concealed handgun permit.
- Wait for specific instructions.
 - Remain calm and do not become argumentative.

Cooperation on your part can greatly reduce the time the officer detains you.

When in a vehicle:

- Follow the previous instructions.
- Remain seated in the vehicle; do not get out of the vehicle unless instructed to do so.
- Keep your hands visible.
- During darkness, turn on the interior light prior to the officer approaching.
- Produce your driver's license and vehicle registration upon request.

Remember

There are many reasons why you might be stopped by the police. Whatever the reason, the police officer needs your cooperation. Overreaction can make the situation worse.

Consider that the officer:

- May not be stopping you for the same reason that you perceive.
- Usually does not have any previous knowledge of you.
- Is trained to remain in a position that enhances his or her safety.
- Does not intend to offend you.

You may be searched:

- when arrested.
- when a warrant exists.
- when you have given consent.
- when probable cause to arrest exists.

Police officers may at any time request permission to search a person, vehicle or property. If permission is freely and knowingly given, the officer may conduct a search as granted.

If the police officer suspects that you may be armed, the officer is allowed to pat you down to see if you have any weapons. This procedure is to ensure the safety of everyone present.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCK IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE IT

The Mount Vernon District Station is asking for your help in reducing criminal activity. There are many things that you can do to help reduce thefts, deter burglary and prevent or reduce auto theft, just to name a few!



- Lock vehicle doors at all times
- Park vehicles in well lit areas
- Do not leave valuables in vehicles
- Do not leave keys in vehicles
- Items that must be left in vehicles should be kept hidden from view
- Lock all of your doors at home
- Keep garage doors closed
- Participate in Neighborhood Watch
- Report any and all suspicious activity



Fairfax County Police Department
Non-Emergency
703-691-2131
Emergency
911



Fairfax County Emergency Alert Network - CEAN

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Public Affairs announce the creation of the Community Emergency Alert Network, or CEAN. The CEAN will be used by county officials to deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to county residents during a major crisis or emergency. Messages will be delivered to e-mail accounts, cell phones (text messaging costs may apply; check with your service provider), text pagers, satellite phones and wireless PDAs registered on the system.

Persons registered on the CEAN will be provided a personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, protective actions that need to be taken, and other important information.

Alerts may include personal safety, weather, major accidents involving utilities or roadways, or disaster notification such as a terrorist attack. In addition, residents may also register for any or all of the additional CEAN alert categories: county government closings/schedule changes, severe traffic disruptions, severe weather 24/7 and severe weather 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

To register for the Community Emergency Alert Network, visit the Fairfax County Web page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. For additional information on the CEAN, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711.

Fairfax County Government offers the CEAN as a public service that will be used in conjunction with other public notification methods, such as cable Channel 16; the Fairfax County Government Web site; the Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line (703-817-7771, TTY 711) and area media, both radio and television.



**HELP REDUCE
INJURIES RESULTING
FROM CRASHES.
WEAR YOUR SAFETY
BELTS!**





**Mount Vernon Citizens
Advisory Committee**

**Fairfax County Police
Department**

Mount Vernon District Station

2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400

Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928

Email: mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov

Non-Emergency—703-691-2131

EMERGENCY—911

***Making Our Community Safer
Through Crime Prevention***

Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

Mount Vernon District Station

Station Commander - Captain David Moyer

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant Mike Wall

Crime Prevention Officer - MPO Robbie Clift

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

A Fairfax County, Va., publication

**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call
703-691-2131**

The next CAC meeting will be on January 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the community room at the Mount Vernon District Police Station. The topic for the January meeting will be on narcotic awareness and prevention.

